

# **Croydon's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2018**

## **Contents**

1	Introduction
2	Methodology
3	About Croydon
4	Childcare in Croydon
5	Qualification levels in Croydon
6	Early Years Funding
7	Profile Outcomes
8	Children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)
9	Childcare in Planning Area 1
10	Childcare in Planning Area 2
11	Childcare in Planning Area 3
12	Cost of childcare
13	Analysis and Actions
14	Parent questionnaire

## **Introduction**

Our council is required by law to 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents'.<sup>1</sup> We have prepared this report in order to meet this duty.

Having sufficient childcare means that families are able to find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training. This applies to all children from birth to age 14, and to children with disabilities. Sufficiency is assessed for different groups, rather than for all children in the local authority.

In this report, we have made an assessment of sufficiency using data about the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available, along with feedback from local parents about how easy or difficult it has been for them to find suitable childcare.

We use information about childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

<sup>1</sup> Statutory guidance on Early Education and Childcare, effective from 1 March 2018.

## Methodology

Quantitative and qualitative data as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 is used within this report and consideration given to supply and demand, availability, affordability, choice and flexibility and quality under three main themes:

- childcare for children aged 0 to 4 years
- childcare for children aged 5 to 14 years and
- childcare for children with disabilities or special needs (all ages)

Analysis of demographic and socio-economic data was conducted by the Council's Information, Data and Monitoring team and provides an indication of how the population is growing and therefore the impact on the childcare market.

Supply information on the number, cost and quality of childcare places was largely gathered from the Ofsted data held within the sufficiency department. Additional data was gathered from childcare providers via telephone calls and email updates.

Please note that all the details in this report were accurate as at July 2018 but that numbers of children, setting details including prices change constantly.

There are a number of factors that affect the demand and ability to pay for childcare. It is necessary to consider these wider issues when considering how demand levels may differ in particular areas of the borough.

Services within the borough are aligned to the three Croydon Best Start planning areas shown below. Please note that the map below shows the old wards and does not take account of the 2017 boundary revisions as services were already commissioned on the basis of the original wards and current data and evaluation for this financial year aligns with the old wards.

Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
--------	--------	--------



## About Croydon<sup>1</sup>

Croydon is an outer London borough and is in the far south of London, making it London's southern-most borough. It covers an area of 87 square kilometres. To the very north of the borough, the five local authorities of Croydon, Lambeth, Southwark, Bromley and Lewisham meet, whilst to the south Croydon borders Surrey. To the north-east, east and south-east of Croydon the borders are with the London Borough of Bromley, whilst to the west the borders are with the London Boroughs of Sutton and Merton.

Population – Croydon has the largest population of all the London boroughs at 363,378 (at Census 2011), with the ONS mid-2017 population estimates suggesting this had grown to 384,837 residents. The higher birth rate a few years ago means there is an increase in the number of younger children requiring services in the borough.

Croydon has the largest population of young people in London: 22.3% (85,728) of the population are aged 0–15 years. Croydon also has a large population of working age adults, 64.5% of the population are aged 16-64, whilst the proportion of older adults, aged 65+, is much lower than the national average making up only 13.4% of the population<sup>2</sup> (ONS mid-2017 population estimates).

Migration – Around 20,500 people move into the borough each year from the rest of the UK, however a similar number move from Croydon to other areas of the UK. As a result this domestic migration has little impact on the total number of people living in Croydon, however the turnover in the population still has implications for services. Data from 2011 show that over half of the people moving into the borough were from neighbouring local authorities, whilst just over 40% of people moving out of Croydon moved to neighbouring local authorities. The number of international immigrants coming in to Croydon is much lower and has been falling since 2006/07, however the number of people moving into Croydon from outside of the UK is still higher than the number leaving Croydon to live abroad.

Ethnicity – Croydon has a diverse population; its communities speak more than 100 different languages and as with other London boroughs, Croydon has a higher proportion of residents from black and minority ethnic backgrounds than the national average. According to the Census 2011, the younger population is more diverse than the older population in Croydon.

---

<sup>1</sup> All Croydon data are taken from the Croydon Observatory (<http://www.croydonobservatory.org/>) specifically the 2018 Borough Profile (<http://www.croydonobservatory.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/5-19-CP-Planning-Area-1.pdf>). Further ward data are also available on the Croydon Observatory.

<sup>2</sup> Population estimates available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

Economy – The top three industries in Croydon, which accounted for nearly half of all businesses in the area in 2017, were professional, scientific and technical; construction and information and communication<sup>3</sup>.

There are fewer jobs in Croydon per head of population than the London average, with many residents commuting to work in other areas, such as central London. The high proportion of residents commuting to central London is one of the factors that influences the difference between the average earnings of people who work in Croydon and those of people who live in Croydon, although it should be noted there is some overlap between the two groups. The average for men living in Croydon was around £37 a week higher than the average for men working in Croydon in 2017. For female full-time workers the difference in the average earnings for women living in Croydon was £30 more a week than the average for women working in Croydon<sup>4</sup>. In 2017, just under a quarter of jobs in Croydon were estimated to pay below the London living wage<sup>5</sup>.

The proportion of people in Croydon claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) was below the regional and national averages in November 2016 following a decline in claimants. Unemployment remains higher amongst the younger population and there has consistently been a higher proportion of 18-24 year olds in Croydon claiming JSA compared to the regional and national average.

Housing – Based on the 2011 Census, at a borough level 70.8% of Croydon residents lived in one family only households<sup>6</sup>, this was an increase of 2.4% compared to the 2001 figure. 25.3% of all households were married couples or couples in a civil partnership living with dependent children, 5.4% were co-habiting couples living with dependent children. 13.1% were a lone parent living with dependent children; the number of lone parent households increased from 17,347 in 2001 to 23,160 households in 2011. The rest of the households in Croydon were one-person households, aged over 65 or had non-dependent children.

According to the 2011 Census, 60.1% of all Croydon households were owner occupied, 22.1% were private rented or rent free households and 17.8% were households living in social housing. Croydon has the largest borough housing stock in London but its social housing stock is smaller than many other London boroughs. Social housing in Croydon is mainly concentrated in the north and the eastern edge of the borough. According to the 2011 Census, the wards of Fieldway and New Addington had the highest proportions of social housing (council homes and other)

---

<sup>3</sup> ONS (2017) UK Business Activity, Size and Location

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/ukbusinessactivitysizeandlocation>

<sup>4</sup> ONS Labour Market Profile for Croydon available through <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

<sup>5</sup> ONS (2017) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) - Number and percentage of employee jobs with hourly pay below the living wage, by parliamentary constituency and local authority, UK, April 2016 and 2017.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.croydonobservatory.org/document-library/> The Croydon Household Profile provides detailed information from the 2011 Census about the type of households that make up the borough of Croydon. "There are a range of household types that reflect the living arrangements that exist between people. These are: One person households, one family households (couple with or without children; single parents with child (ren), and Other households: multi-person households including unrelated adults sharing, student households, multi-family households and households of one family and other unrelated adults." ONS Households and Household Composition in England and Wales, 2001-11 [http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776\\_361923.pdf](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776_361923.pdf)

with 60.6% and 42.2% respectively. Waddon was next with 25.5% and Selsdon & Ballards had the lowest percentage of social housing at just 2.0%.

2,449 Croydon residents were recorded as either homeless or in temporary housing as at 31st March 2018<sup>7</sup>. There was a disproportionately high percentage (5 in 10) of homeless people from the Black community. The majority of people in Croydon who applied for help from the council for homelessness were in the 25–44 year old age group (59.9%); this age group only made up 29.5% of the total resident population in 2017 (ONS mid-2017 population estimates). The most common reason for homelessness is parental evictions, followed by exclusions by relatives and friends.

Education and skills<sup>8</sup> – Overall attainment of pupils at primary schools in Croydon is slightly lower than the average for London, however the performance of pupils is improving. The percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development in Croydon in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has improved each year. For Key Stage 1 the proportion of pupils in Croydon achieving the expected standard in reading remains in line with the national and regional averages at 77% in 2017. In writing, 69% of pupils achieved the expected standard which is below the London average of 72%. The proportion of Croydon pupils achieving the expected standards in maths was in line with the average for London and the rest of England.

At Key Stage 2 the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standards for reading, writing and maths has improved from 55% to 64%. Performance is above the national average (61%) but remains below the London average (67%).

Until 2016, attainment at Key Stage 4 was measured by counting the number of A\*-C grades at GCSE. This measure has since changed to Average Attainment 8 score per pupil. This measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications. The average Attainment 8 score in Croydon has decreased from 49.9 in 2015 to 45.0 in 2017. Over the last 3 years, Croydon has been in line with the national average but below the London average.

85.3% of college students achieved two or more substantial Level 3 qualifications during 2016/17, slightly above the regional average. 13.1 of A-level students achieved grades AAB or better, an increase from 2016 but below the regional average (20.3%) and national average (22.4%)<sup>9</sup>.

Community Safety – The total number of notifiable offences in Croydon has fallen in recent years and the rate of offences committed in Croydon is near the London average. Despite this overall trend the number of reported violence with injury offences is increasing across London and in Croydon this is also continuing to rise. The number of young people who are victims of serious violence is also increasing. The number of offences in Croydon flagged as gang related remains low.

Croydon has the seventh highest rate of domestic abuse in London, with 19 domestic abuse incidents per 1,000 people in the rolling year to September 2017.

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.croydonobservatory.org/document-library/> Borough Profile 2018 homelessness section p.48

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.croydonobservatory.org/document-library/> Borough Profile 2018 Education and Skills section p.51

<sup>9</sup> DfE SFR03/2018 Revised A level and other Level 3 results in England, 2016/17.

Domestic abuse disproportionately affects females, with latest figures across London showing that three quarters of victims of domestic abuse were recorded as female. As at June 2017, 26% of domestic abuse victims in Croydon were repeat victims which equates to 173 people; on average these victims will have experienced 3 previous incidents of domestic abuse in the previous 12 months. The hotspots are in the north of the borough however there is a higher population in the north and domestic abuse is still widely underreported. The number of reported domestic abuse incidents in Croydon had risen by a third from 6,014 in the year to September 2012 to 7,994 in the year to September 2016. This figure has decreased to 7,327 in the rolling year to September 2017. The number of domestic abuse offences that involved violence with injury increased from 1,220 in September 2016 to 1,328 in the year to September 2017.

Croydon continues to have a higher rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system than the London average. In the year ending March 2015, the rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system per 100,000 of the 10-17 year old population was 595 in Croydon, higher than London (429) and England (402). There is a disproportionately high percentage of young people from a Black or Black British background amongst the first time entrants in Croydon, with figures showing they make up over a third of the first time entrants. Three quarters of first time entrants in Croydon are male which is consistent with the rest of the country. The most common offences committed by first time entrants in Croydon are violence against the person; drug offences and theft and handling, which are also the top three offences across London as a whole.

Health – In the last 20 years life expectancy in Croydon has progressively increased. For males the life expectancy from birth increased from around 74 years in 1991-1993 to 80.3 years in 2014-2016, this is in line with the average for London (80.4) and slightly higher than the England average of 79.5. Similarly life expectancy from birth for females has increased from just over 79 years to 83.6 years in the same period, however this is slightly below the London average of 84.2 years but similar to the England average of 83.1<sup>10</sup>.

Deprivation – Croydon became relatively more deprived compared to other local authorities in England between 2010 and 2015 according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (produced by DCLG). The Index of Multiple Deprivation looks at a range of different aspects of deprivation: income, education skills and training, employment, health deprivation and disability, barriers to housing and services, crime, and living environment deprivation. There continues to be geographic inequality in the distribution of deprivation in the borough with the north and south-east of the borough remaining more deprived. Some wards have low levels of disadvantage whilst others are amongst the most deprived in England.

The Index Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) is a supplementary index looking at the proportion of children in an area that are living in families affected by

---

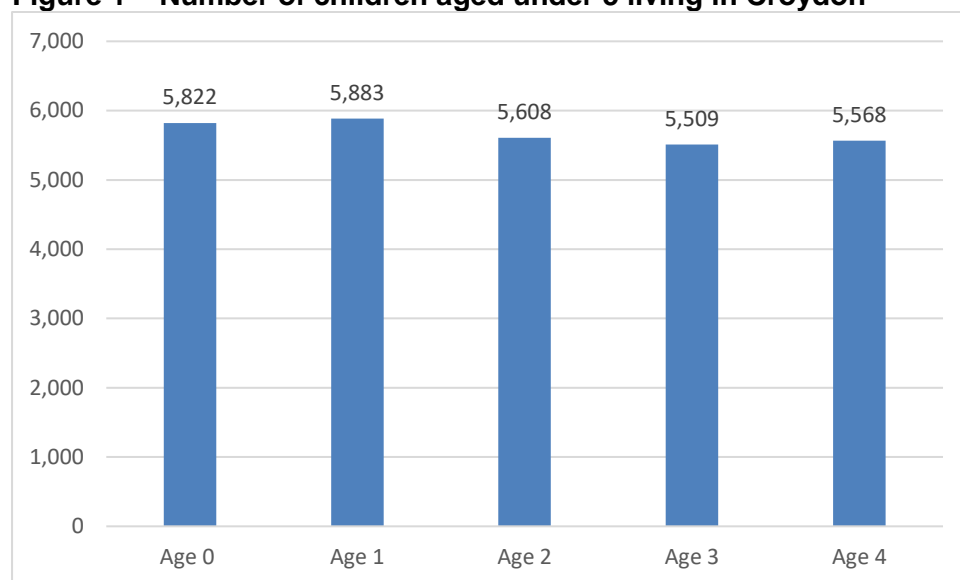
<sup>10</sup> 1991-1993 data from Borough Profile. 2014-2016 data from PHE's Children and Young People's Health Benchmarking Tool.



income deprivation. In Croydon, 23.2% of children were living in families affected by income deprivation. 4% of the LSOAs were in the top 10 most deprived LSOAs in the country.

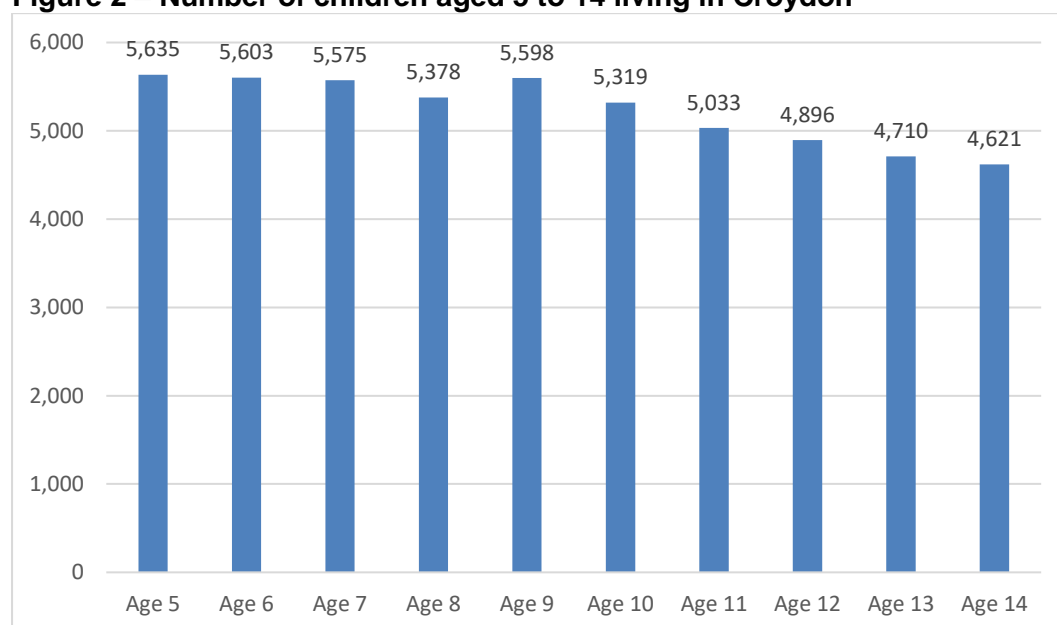
Current population figures – Based on the 2011 census there are 22,044 families with children aged under 5 living in Croydon. Using the latest mid-year population estimates (2017) these have risen to 28,390 children aged under 5 and 52,368 aged 5 to 14 in Croydon. This is detailed in the table below.

**Figure 1 – Number of children aged under 5 living in Croydon**



Source: ONS Mid-2017 population estimates

**Figure 2 – Number of children aged 5 to 14 living in Croydon**



Source: ONS Mid-2017 population estimates

## **Childcare in Croydon**

### **Supply of childcare**

For the purposes of this assessment the supply of formal childcare includes private day nurseries, pre-schools, schools with nursery provision, childminders (funded childminders are accredited to deliver the free entitlement on behalf of the local authority), out of school clubs and holiday clubs.

Schools offering out of school provision are exempt from separate registration on the Ofsted Childcare Register but are included within the data. However crèches are not included as any care of less than three hours is not required to register with Ofsted.

### **Childcare providers**

Across the London Borough of Croydon there are a total of 682 Ofsted/Independent School Inspectorate registered childcare providers. In addition, there are 41 school run breakfast and/or after school and holiday clubs, which come under the school's registration. This gives a total of 723 childcare providers.

The table below shows the geographical distribution of the various types of provision against the 24 wards within Croydon as at July 2018.

	DN	PS	SCH w N	CM		OOS	HP
				Funded	Not funded		
Bensham Manor	6	0	2	7	16	3	2
Norbury	7	3	1	10	14	3	2
Thornton Heath	6	1	3	6	27	2	1
Upper Norwood	4	3	5	3	19	4	1
West Thornton	6	1	1	4	14	3	2
Addiscombe	4	4	3	9	11	4	1
Ashburton	2	3	2	3	21	3	2
Broad Green	4	4	1	4	11	3	2
Fairfield	6	1	1	2	7	4	2
Selhurst	6	2	6	5	9	5	1
Shirley	4	2	1	6	15	1	0
South Norwood	2	1	2	7	11	3	2
Waddon	6	2	2	0	10	4	3
Woodside	7	1	2	9	21	1	1
Coulsdon East	2	2	1	9	9	4	2
Coulsdon West	5	1	3	1	13	4	0
Croham	6	1	3	3	14	3	0
Fieldway	1	3	4	3	7	4	0
Heathfield	1	2	1	4	11	6	1
Kenley	5	1	1	2	12	5	1
New Addington	2	2	2	1	10	2	0
Purley	3	1	6	1	3	3	1
Sanderstead	3	4	2	6	7	4	0
Selsdon & Ballards	1	2	3	3	10	2	2
Total	99	47	58	108	302	80	29

Key

DN - Day nursery

PS - Pre-school or sessional and term time

SCH w N - Schools with nursery provision

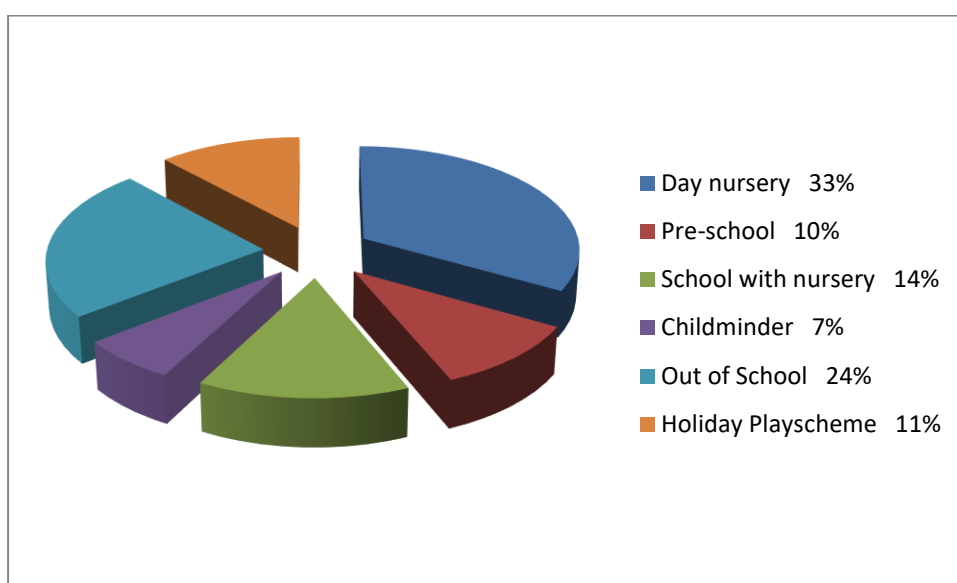
CM - Childminder; funded childminders offer free entitlement places

OOS - Breakfast & Out of School club

HP - Holiday Playscheme

## Childcare places

In total the 723 providers offer 15,406 childcare places. The distribution of places by provider is shown below.



In Croydon there are an estimated 19 childcare places per 100 children based on 80,758 children aged 0 to 14 years.

## Quality of childcare in Croydon

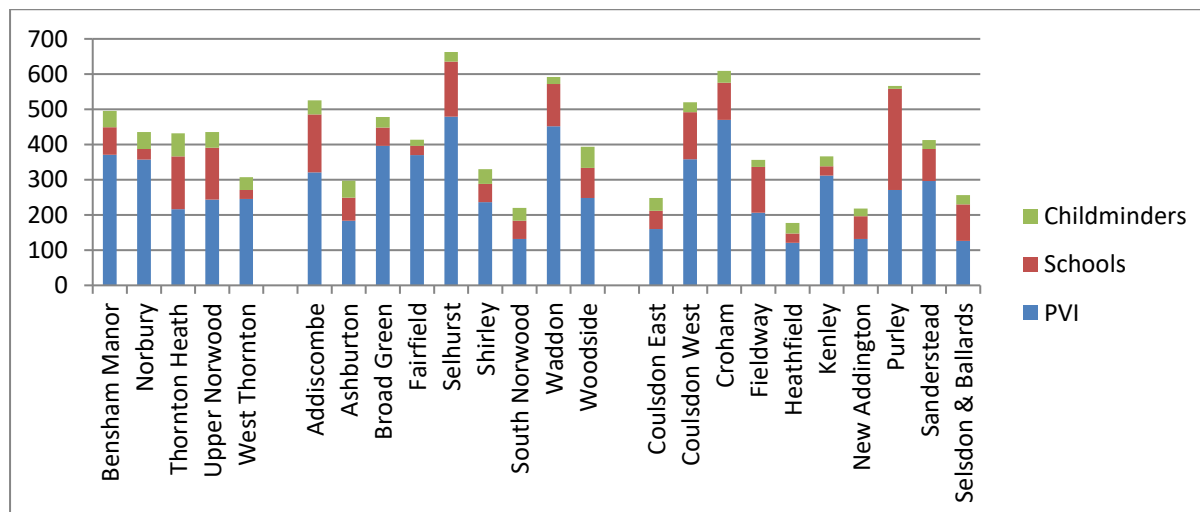
Ofsted inspect all registered provision and the table below shows the current quality judgements along with the national average.

	Outstanding		Good		Sub-total	Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Awaiting	
Day nurseries	11	13%	69	78%	91%	5	6%	3	3%	11	n/a
Pre-school	11	26%	31	74%	100%	0	0%	0	0%	5	n/a
Schools with nursery	17	36%	22	47%	83%	8	17%	0	0%	11	n/a
Childminders	42	13%	256	79%	92%	5	1%	22	7%	85	n/a
Out of School	11	17%	44	69%	86%	6	9%	3	5%	16	n/a
Holiday Playschemes	1	6%	17	94%	100%	0	0%	0	0%	11	n/a

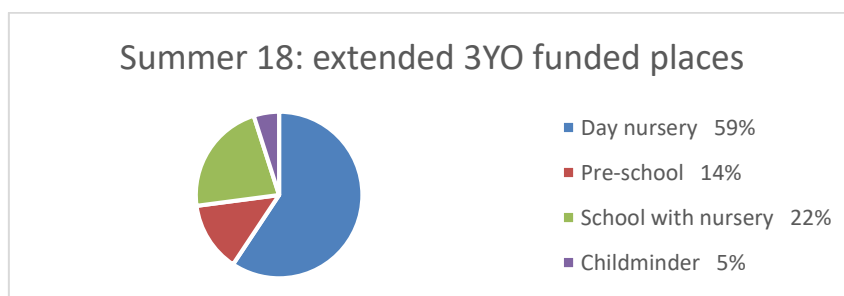
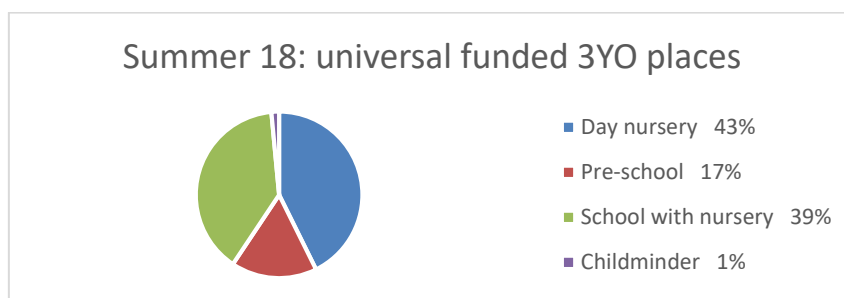
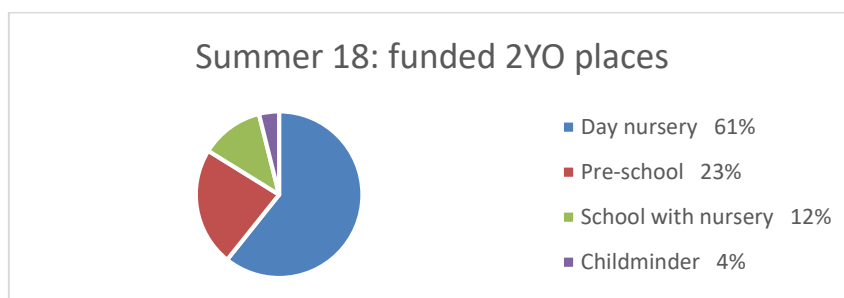
Ofsted's national figures as at 31.3.18 state that the proportion of childcare providers on the Early Years Register judged to be good or outstanding was 94%. This is better than the London average of 92% for childcare on non-domestic premises and 90% for childminders.

## Early Years Childcare

In Croydon there are currently 9,950 day care places for pre-school children aged 0 to 4 years. This is comprised of 6,703 nursery places in private settings, 2,223 via school provision and 1,024 with childminders; please see page 24 for further details. Based on the mid-2017 population estimate of 28,390 this equates to 35 full-time places per 100 children aged 0 to 4 years across the borough.

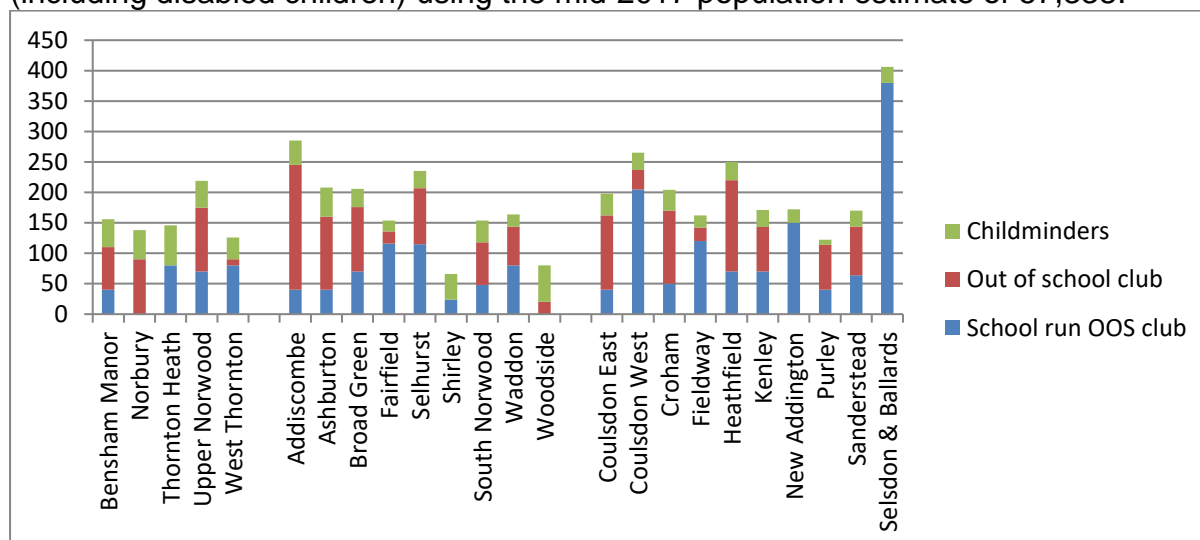


However this varies across the borough but the high concentration of nursery provision in specific areas will also serve families living in neighbouring areas. Therefore any potential over or under supply of places should be considered within this context. The distribution of funded spaces by provider is shown below:



## Out of School Childcare

Out of school childcare comprises of before and after school clubs as well as provision offered by childminders. In total there are 3,637 out of school places available at out of school clubs with up to 820\* additional spaces available with childminders. This equates to 6 places per 100 children aged 5 to 15 years (including disabled children) using the mid-2017 population estimate of 57,338.



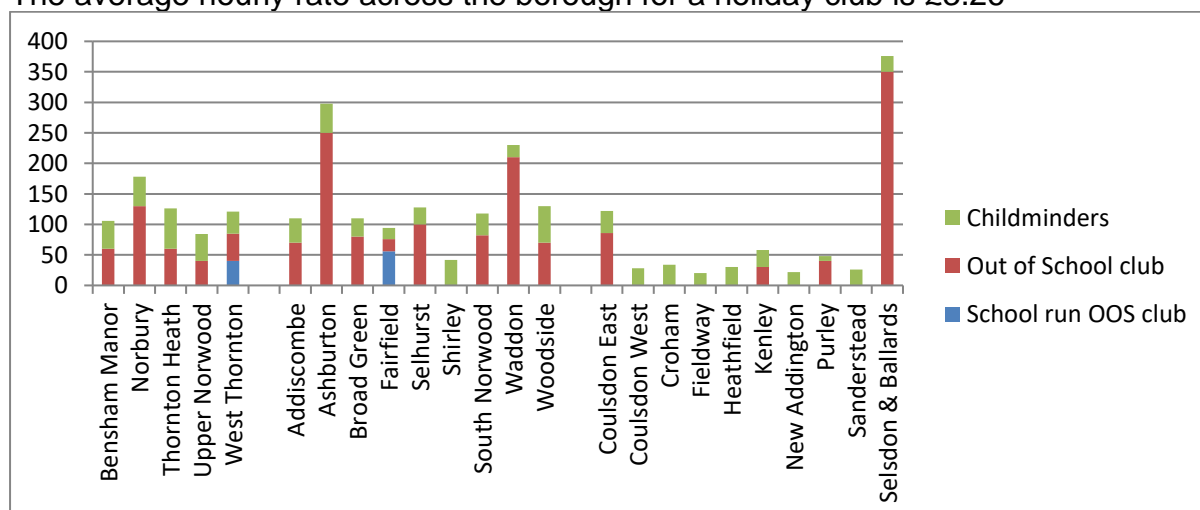
When considering the accessibility of out of school childcare, it is important to consider the number of schools served by individual clubs or childminders rather than a club's proximity to a child's home.

The borough average hourly rate for breakfast clubs is £4.05 and £4.33 for after school.

## Holiday Care

Holiday childcare includes holiday playschemes as well as provision offered by childminders. In total there are 1,819 out of school places available at holiday clubs with up to 820\* additional spaces available with childminders. This equates to 5 places per 100 children aged 5 to 15 years (including disabled children).

The average hourly rate across the borough for a holiday club is £3.26



\* Please note that the figure of 820 childminder places is based on 66% of childminders offering 3 spaces.

## Qualification levels in Croydon

Each year the Department of Education instructs local authorities on what data to collect within the Early Years census, over the last few years the focus has varied as new qualifications have been introduced. However the January 2018 information reverted to a straightforward count of qualified staff.

The current statutory guidance dictates minimum qualified staffing levels and can be summarised as:

For children under 2: 1:3 staff to child ratio

For children aged 2: 1:4 staff to child ratio

For children aged 3 and over: 1:8 staff to child ratio

Irrespective of the child's age, at least one member of staff must hold a full and relevant level 3 qualification and at least half of all other staff must hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification. However please note that for children aged 3 and over this ratio changes to 1:13 when a person with Qualified Teacher Status or Early Years Professional Status (level 6 qualified) is working directly with the children; there is no difference to the ratios for younger children when cared for by a level 6 qualified person.

In addition anyone completing a level 2 or 3 qualification on or after 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 must also have either a full or emergency Paediatric First Aid certificate within 3 months of starting work to count in qualified staff ratios.

According to census information received in January 2018 staff qualifications in the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) daycare sector can be summarised as shown below.

	Total number of staff	L2 qualified staff	L3 qualified staff	QTS/EYPS/EYT	Unqualified
Day nurseries (96 <sup>1</sup> )	1,228	223 (18%)	669 (54%)	70 (6%)	266 (22%)
Pre-schools (47)	337	39 (12%)	228 (68%)	20 (6%)	50 (14%)
Total	1,565	262 (17%)	897 (57%)	90 (6%)	316 (20%)

In terms of total staff numbers, day nurseries have an average of 60% of total staff team qualified at Level 3 or above and pre-schools have an average of 74% of total staff qualified at Level 3 or above. This produces a Croydon average of 63% of early years' staff qualified at Level 3 or above.

<sup>1</sup>Please note 3 nurseries are not currently signed up to deliver funding which is why there is a difference between the total operating in the borough and reported above.

## Early Years Funding

### Take up of 3 and 4 year old funding

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of childcare a week over 38 weeks (570 hours) this is known as the universal offer. Parents can access their entitlement over a longer period of time known as the stretched offer dependent on each setting's individual offer.

In September 2017 the government introduced '30 hours' whereby working parents of 3 and 4 year old children could apply for an additional 570 hours of funded childcare. The criteria is that both parents need to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at minimum wage i.e. approximately £125 subject to an income cap of £100,000 per parent. All applications are made online via the HMRC and successful applications receive an eligibility code. These codes need to be renewed every 3 months to ensure the parents still meet the criteria.

The Department for Education latest figures indicate that within England 94% of 3 and 4 year old children take up their universal free entitlement, within London that figure is lower. The figures over the last four years are shown below:

Year	Number 3YOs	%	London average	Number 4YOs	%	London average	Total	%	London average
2015	4850	83%	83%	5240	92%	93%	10090	87%	88%
2016	4805	83%	82%	5118	91%	89%	9923	87%	84%
2017	4581	82%	82%	5104	91%	87%	9685	87%	84%
2018	4540	80%	83%	4741	87%	86%	9281	83%	84%

Taken from national benchmarking tool dated 28.6.18

Based on this year's data Croydon's take up is just below the London average for the universal entitlement.

However the Croydon growth of extended hours has been strong, in Autumn 17 there were 1,169 eligible children accessing, by Spring 18 this number had risen to 1,649 and Summer 18 showed further growth with 2,090 children accessing the extended entitlement. As this is the first year of extended entitlement the DfE have not yet published cross borough comparative statistics.

### Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

In April 2015 the government introduced EYPP for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds. Children are eligible if they are receiving their early years' entitlement and meet the benefits related criteria for free school meals or are in/have left the care of the local authority. The setting receives an additional 53p an hour for any eligible children and the intention is that these funds are used to close any developmental gaps the child may have and to enhance provision for these children.

In the summer term we had 600 pupils eligible for EYPP which is the equivalent of 8% of our total number of children accessing early years funding; in January 2017 the DfE's expected percentage for 3YOs was 11%. However the majority of the EYPP children are accessing their entitlement in a nursery provision within a maintained school. Private providers have reported a reluctance on behalf of parents to provide the necessary information to run the checks.

## 2 year old funding (2YO)

40% of 2 year old children are also entitled to 570 hours if the parent is in receipt of:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- Child tax Credit and/or Working Tax Credit and have an annual income under £16,190
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on
- Universal Credit

Or if the child:

- Is looked after by the local authority
- Has a current statement of special educational need or an education, health and care plan
- Receives Disability Living Allowance
- Has left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangement or adoption order

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) provide lists to local authorities of potentially eligible families but the changes to Universal Credit earlier this year has resulted in increased options when checks are run and in some instances eligibility can only be ascertained on presentation of three months' statements of take home pay.

Parents have always had the opportunity to make an online application but Croydon's online provider decided to stop offering this service in December last year and a new system had to be put in place whereby the sufficiency team took responsibility for checking online applications. To date over 1,100 checks have been run in the first seven months of the year. However in terms of number the funded 2YO take-up remains largely stable at approximately 1,200 2YOs per term.

The Department for Education latest figures indicate that within England 72% of eligible 2YOs are taking up their free entitlement, within London that figure is lower. The figures over the last four years are shown below:

Year	Number of funded Croydon 2YOs	%	London average
2015	1019	38%	46%
2016	1257	53%	57%
2017	1270	66%	58%
2018	1230	82%	61%

Taken from national benchmarking tool dated 28.6.18 and sector Summer 18 funding returns

Based on this year's data Croydon's take up is well above the London average but the fact the total number of children remains relatively constant indicates the fluidity of the Croydon population in terms of eligibility.



## Profile outcomes

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to improve outcomes for children which is known as the Early Years Outcome Duty and is often referred to as 'school readiness.' This is measured through the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile at the end of the reception class year when children are 5 years old (or rising 5).

Children who achieve at least "expected" in 12 of the 17 aspects of learning are said to have achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD).

Table 1 shows the percent of children who achieved the GLD in Croydon and nationally. This year's (2018) non-validated data shows that the number of children is, once again, above the national figure, although there is a slight drop of 0.1% from last year

<b>Percentage of children achieving a GLD</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Croydon</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>2015</b>	64.7 %	66.2 %
<b>2016</b>	70.3 %	69.3 %
<b>2017</b>	73.6 %	70.3 %
<b>2018</b>	73.5% (provisional)	71.4% (provisional)

Table 1

<b>Percentage gap between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and those not eligible achieving the GLD</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Croydon</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>2015</b>	13 %	18 %
<b>2016</b>	11.5 %	18 %
<b>2017</b>	13.8 %	17%
<b>2018</b>	9.7% (provisional)	Not yet known

Table 2

The gap between those children eligible for FSMs and those not eligible has reduced considerably in Croydon (Table 2). The number of EYFS children assessed who were eligible for FSM has risen again from 14% in 2016 to 18% in 2017 and to 21% in 2018.

## Children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)

Nurseries, pre-schools and childminders across Croydon are supported in developing and maintaining good inclusive practice, in line with the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the 2015 SEND Code of Practice, by the Best Start teams.

The Best Start Early Learning Collaboration work with settings to ensure that the right amount of support is in place to help children with additional needs and to develop a fully inclusive approach. 107 children were supported by this team, Educational Psychologist and Inclusion Keyworker in 2016-2017 with 35 escalated to the Special Education Needs Disability team (SEND).

The Early Years SEND Team offers a range of services for families whose children, aged 0-5, have significant developmental delay, disabilities and social communication difficulties (SCD) both at home and in Early Years settings. The team ensure that a package of support is delivered that reflects the individual needs of the child and their family and may be a combination of the different services offered by the team. 390 children, including the 35 escalated, were supported by the SEND team in 2017-2018

### Specialised placements

The local authority has commissioned the following places across the borough:

Rainbow Group (planning area 2) 27 places, 15 main cohort and 12 medical unit  
Willow Tree (planning area 3) 12 places  
Winterbourne (planning area 1) 12 places

The SEND Team have overall responsibility for children placed in the specialist nursery provisions named above but do not offer regular support as each setting has an allocated Educational Psychologist.

Numbers of children being supported in a PVI provision are shown below:

	Portage setting support	SCD setting support
Under 2s	2	0
2 year olds	17	10
3 and 4 year olds	72	121
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>131</b>

135 children within 2017-2018 were supported with High Needs Funding packages; these were for children attending PVI and maintained settings.

The number of children supported by Portage are shown below:

	Home support
Under 2s	3
2 year olds	24
3 and 4 year olds	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>

The number of children supported by Social Communication Disorder (SCD) pathway team members are:

	Home support visit & PRISM course
Under 2s	0
2 year olds	2
3 and 4 year olds	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>

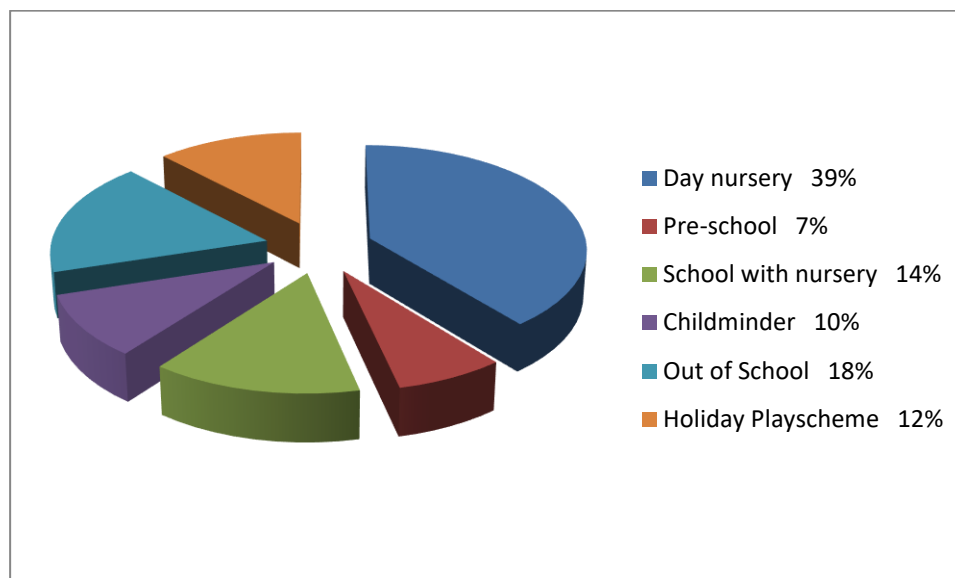
Number of pre-school children (aged 3-4) with an EHCP following support received from EY SEND: 56

Total number of pre-school children (aged 3-4) with an EHCP at time of reporting: 121

Whilst this data represents service delivery for children with SEND at a sustained personalised level, it does not fully depict the wider 'value added' work completed to initially assess needs (within the family home and in settings) in order to ensure that children have received an appropriate graduated response to their SEND. A considerable amount of service delivery involves managing demand and expectation within settings and family intervention for those children whose needs are initially unclear and, through effective, short-term targeted intervention, no longer meet criteria for a long-term intervention. Data is not currently held for this aspect of service delivery but consideration is being given to methods for recording going forward.

## Childcare in Planning Area 1

Planning Area 1 consists of the Bensham Manor, Norbury, Thornton Heath, Upper Norwood and West Thornton wards and contains 192 childcare providers offering 3,084 places. The distribution of places by provider is shown below.



The Ofsted grades are summarised in the following table

	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Awaiting	
Day nurseries	0	0%	24	96%	1	4%	0	0%	4	n/a
Pre-school	1	12%	7	88%	0	0%	0	0%	0	n/a
Schools with nursery	2	17%	9	75%	1	8%	0	0%	0	n/a
Childminders	13	14%	75	79%	2	2%	5	5%	25	n/a
Out of School	4	31%	8	61%	1	8%	0	0%	2	n/a
Holiday Playschemes	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%	3	n/a

Ofsted's statistics published on 27.6.18 state that as at 31.3.18 95% of childcare on non-domestic premises was Good (73%) or Outstanding (22%), PA1 total is 96% for day nurseries and 100% for pre-schools. 94% of childminders were Good (78%) or Outstanding (16%), PA1 total is 93%.

Take up of funding in group provision as at 31.7.18

	No. of 2YOs	% within PA1	No. of 3&4YOs	% within PA1	No. of ext. hrs. 3&4 YOs	% within PA1
Day nurseries	230	76%	755	49%	240	64%
Pre-school	30	10%	154	10%	25	7%
Schools with nursery	41	14%	636	41%	110	29%
Total	301		1545		375	

Therefore Planning Area 1's group provision is delivering:

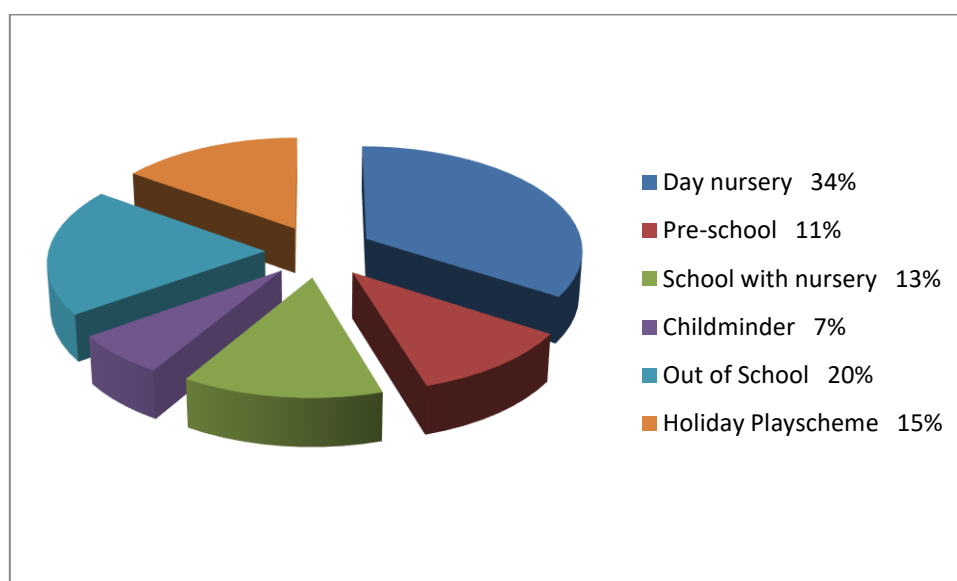
26% of the borough's funded 2YO places

21% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old universal places and

19% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old extended entitlement places.

## Childcare in Planning Area 2

Planning Area 2 consists of the Addiscombe, Ashburton, Broad Green, Fairfield, Selhurst, Shirley, South Norwood, Waddon and Woodside wards and contains 284 providers offering 6,221 places. The distribution of places by provider is shown below.



The Ofsted grades are summarised in the following table

	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Awaiting	
Day nurseries	4	11%	26	74%	2	6%	3	9%	6	n/a
Pre-school	6	33%	12	67%	0	0%	0	0%	2	n/a
Schools with nursery	3	21%	6	43%	5	36%	0	0%	6	n/a
Childminders	13	10%	98	79%	2	2%	11	9%	37	n/a
Out of School	1	5%	16	76%	3	14%	1	5%	7	n/a
Holiday Playschemes	1	11%	8	89%	0	0%	0	0%	5	n/a

Ofsted's statistics published on 27.6.18 state that as at 31.3.18 95% of childcare on non-domestic premises was Good (73%) or Outstanding (22%), PA2 total is 85% for day nurseries and 100% for pre-schools. 94% of childminders were Good (78%) or Outstanding (16%), PA2 total is 89%.

Take up of funding in group provision as at 31.7.18

	No. of 2YOs	% within PA2	No. of 3&4YOs	% within PA2	No. of ext. hrs. 3&4 YOs	% within PA2
Day nurseries	316	58%	1258	42%	483	64%
Pre-school	155	28%	615	21%	138	18%
Schools with nursery	77	14%	1120	37%	138	18%
Total	548		2993		759	

Therefore Planning Area 2's group provision is delivering:

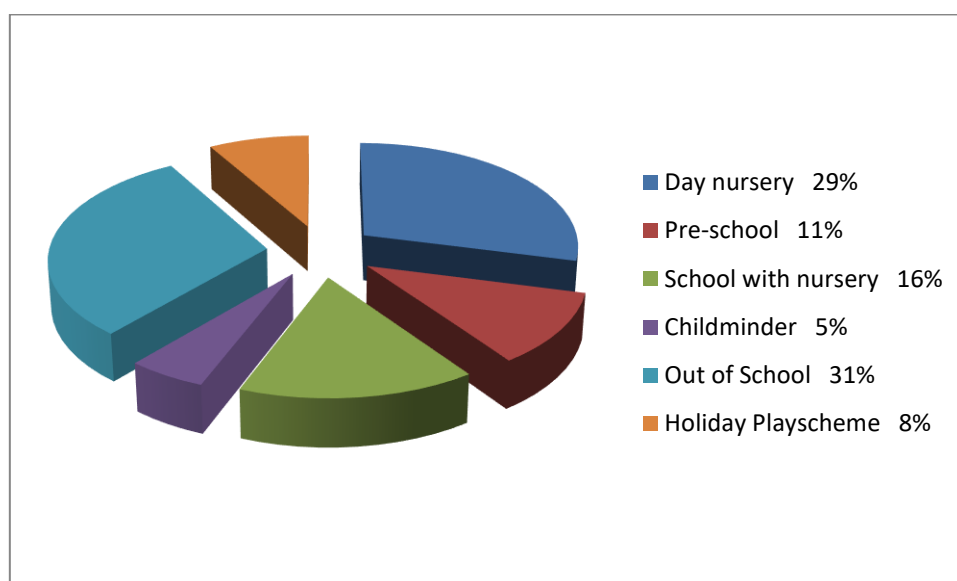
46% of the borough's funded 2YO places

40% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old universal places and

38% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old extended entitlement places.

### Childcare in Planning Area 3

Planning Area 3 consists of the Coulsdon East, Coulsdon West, Croham, Fieldway, Heathfield, Kenley, New Addington, Purley, Sanderstead and Selsdon & Ballards wards and contains 247 childcare providers offering 6,101 places. The distribution of places by provider is shown below.



The Ofsted grades are summarised in the following table

	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Awaiting	
Day nurseries	7	25%	19	68%	2	7%	0	0%	1	n/a
Pre-school	4	25%	12	75%	0	0%	0	0%	3	n/a
Schools with nursery	12	57%	7	33%	2	10%	0	0%	5	n/a
Childminders	16	15%	83	78%	1	1%	6	6%	23	n/a
Out of School	6	20%	20	66%	2	7%	2	7%	7	n/a
Holiday Playschemes	0	0%	4	100%	0	14%	0	0%	3	n/a

Ofsted's statistics published on 27.6.18 state that as at 31.3.18 95% of childcare on non-domestic premises was Good (73%) or Outstanding (22%), PA3 total is 93% for day nurseries and 100% for pre-schools. 94% of childminders were Good (78%) or Outstanding (16%), PA3 total is 93%.

Take up of funding in group provision as at 31.7.18

	No. of 2YOs	% within PA3	No. of 3&4YOs	% within PA3	No. of ext. hrs. 3&4 YOs	% within PA3
Day nurseries	205	61%	1204	42%	520	61%
Pre-school	116	35%	544	19%	123	14%
Schools with nursery	12	4%	1128	39%	210	25%
Total	333		2876		853	

Therefore Planning Area 3's group provision is delivering:

28% of the borough's funded 2YO places

39% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old universal places and

43% of the borough's funded 3 and 4 year old extended entitlement places.

## Cost of childcare

The table below shows the average daily rate for day nurseries and the average sessional rate for pre-schools across each of the three planning areas.

	0-2 years	2-3 years	3-5 years
Planning area 1			
Day nursery	£5.60	£5.24	£5.12
Pre-school	£4.83	£5.69	£5.56
Planning area 2			
Day nursery	£5.47	£5.30	£5.12
Pre-school	n/a	£5.27	£5.14
Planning area 3			
Day nursery	£5.57	£5.27	£5.18
Pre-school	n/a	£5.65	£5.48
Borough average			
Day nursery	£5.55	£5.27	£5.14
Pre-school	£4.83	£5.54	£5.39
Childminder	£5.84	£5.84	£5.84

The current funding rates from the Direct School Grant are as shown:

2YOs are funded at £5.66 per hour

3YOs are funded at £4.50 per hour

However the introduction of the single funding formula requires local authorities to pass through 95% of the government rate, Croydon are paid £5.13 therefore in addition to the above, a group setting will also receive the following additional funds:

Deprivation uplift, this is calculated based on the child's postcode and run against the IDACI scales with payments tiered according to level of deprivation. Band 1 corresponds to postcodes in the 10% most deprived areas and Band 2 to the next 10% to 20% most deprived. This year the amounts paid are £181.30 for those in decile 1 i.e. the 10% most deprived postcodes and £157 for decile 2 i.e. the next 10% to 20% of deprived postcodes. Given the variable nature of postcodes it is almost impossible to anticipate levels of IMD (Index of Multiple Deprivation).

Inclusive Practice, this is paid to all group settings and is calculated based on funded 3 and 4YOs on roll at census day in January and in 2018/19 the amount per child is £49.28

All group settings in Croydon are paid as described above with the exception of the five nursery schools who receive a Maintained Nursery School supplement from central government.

According to the Family and Childcare Trust's Childcare Survey 2018, in Outer London the hourly rate

for a child under 2 is £5.82 and £5.36 for an over 2 in nursery and

for a child under 2 is £5.43 and £5.41 for an over 2 at a childminder.

## **Childcare compared to last sufficiency assessment in 2017**

Croydon continues to have a diverse range of childcare providers – we have several small independent one-site providers, 19 providers who operate more than one setting within Croydon and the neighbouring boroughs including 3 of the large chains each operate two settings within the borough and one franchised nursery.

### **Childminders**

The number of childminders has decreased from 427 to 410, a net overall reduction of 17 which is in keeping with national trends. However we are seeing a steady flow of new childminders with 35 registering in the last year. The percentage of childminders eligible to deliver funding has increased to 26% and their hourly rate has increased by 19p. We do not have current figures on rates charged by childminders who do not deliver funding as many do not openly share this information preferring instead to have this discussion with prospective parents.

### **Pre-schools**

The summer term saw the closure of two pre-schools one of whom had been trading for over 25 years and the other was a church run group which was not financially viable given the church's commitment to the living wage. There are only 6 of the 47 pre-schools who do not offer 30 hours, the vast majority have increased their hours to offer this service to parents. The average hourly cost has risen by 4p which equates to an additional 12p per standard 3 hour session. However the increase in National Minimum Wage and pension auto enrolment has had a direct impact on small independent businesses such as pre-schools who by definition only open for 38 weeks of the year and therefore have reduced capacity to charge for additional services.

### **Day Nurseries**

The number of day nurseries in the borough has stayed the same although 3 have in fact closed but an identical number have opened; two of the new providers are in fact operating out of the previously registered premises. Three nurseries are not accredited to deliver funding but of the remaining 96 only 3 have chosen not to offer the 30 hours of extended entitlement. Average costs per hour have risen by 18p for 0-2 years, 14p for 2-3 years and 15p for 3-5 years, each age band has a different legally stated adult:child ratio. These increases are in fact less than last year's which demonstrates how competitive the market has become given the increase in business rates and staffing costs. Across the borough opening hours remain largely unchanged from last year and although non-core hours can be accessed at various settings it would appear that there is limited demand for very early mornings or late evenings. Weekend care is now only available within the childminder sector as the one nursery who did offer it has removed the offer as it was never requested.

### **Out of school care**

The number of out of school clubs in the borough has fallen by 1 with the average cost of a 1.5 hour breakfast club being £6.07 (up from £5.81) and £12.99 (up from £12.93) for a 3 hour after school club.

The number of holiday schemes in the borough has decreased by 2 and the average daily rate for 10 hours is £32.60, an increase of 20p on last year.

We are however seeing increasing numbers of Tuition Centres registering largely focussing on key skills such as literacy and numeracy across all age ranges.



## Parental Childcare Questionnaire

This year we posted an online childcare questionnaire on the Croydon website for four weeks from 19<sup>th</sup> June to 19<sup>th</sup> July. The questions were taken from the guidance issued to local authorities by the Greater London Authority in February 18 and focus on type of childcare used and knowledge of available funded childcare (see appendix for the actual questionnaire).

The key facts and future considerations are detailed below:

There were 130 respondents which is statistically low given the number of families with children in the borough and interestingly 4 of those responding did not need childcare!

Of the 96% of respondents using childcare, there were more responses from the parents of 1 year olds than any other age group. This may be linked to awareness of early years funding and a desire to find out more detail as:

87% of respondents claimed to be aware of 2YO funding  
93% of respondents claimed to be aware of universal 3YO funding and  
83% of respondents claimed to be aware of the extended entitlement for 3YOs

However there is no way to identify from the figures when multiple answers have been given e.g. if a parent was responding for both early years and school age children and equally when care is shared e.g. a childminder and a pre-school.

Within the early years' sector i.e. 0 to 4 years, the most popular choice of childcare was a day nursery at 58% but 30% of respondents also chose a pre-school with a further 18% using a childminder. However it should be noted that some respondents selected more than one option as childminders often share care with a school nursery. Given the distribution of summer funded places detailed on page 12, schools are under-represented in this survey. In terms of finding childcare 70% of parents found this easy.

The majority of school age responses don't use any childcare (60%) but of those who do, the most popular care was after-school provision. However similar numbers of parents access a breakfast club or childminder as use family or friends. The take up of holiday care is the lowest category but almost a third of responding parents claimed it was difficult to find and potentially this is being addressed by the informal childcare provided by family and friends.

80% of respondents use childcare to facilitate work but half of this number acknowledge that it also benefits the child in terms of education and social enjoyment.

In terms of overall satisfaction the vast majority of parents are happy with their childcare and feel the provider meets the needs of their children and delivers varied activities with satisfaction levels ranging from 86 to 98% across the various questions.

## Identified Issues and Actions

### Workforce

Recruiting quality, qualified staff is an ongoing concern for the sector, this issue has been exacerbated by the continuing changes to eligible qualifications and the lack of delivery on some of the changes originally mentioned in the March 17 Early Years Workforce Strategy. However the new Level 2 Early Years SEND qualification specification has been published and is described as a 'small qualification' and CPD top-up for level 2 staff who qualified before the introduction of L2 Early Years practitioner criteria.

2017 Action	Progress	Status
Monitor BSELC training offer and sector take up rates and participation with the apprentice scheme.	There are various strands to the BSELC training offer - Learning Community events, a training programme for the sector and the apprentice scheme which are reviewed termly as part of the commissioning arrangements. Whilst take up rates vary across the offer there is good participation across the sector.	Ongoing and will be reviewed in April 2019 as part of commissioning arrangements.

### Take up of free entitlement places

As stated earlier Croydon's take up of 2 year old funded places is above the London average (82% vs 61%) but the 3 and 4 year old universal entitlement at 83% is just below the London average of 84%. As yet there have been no published cross borough figures for the extended entitlement but in Croydon we have seen steady growth in take up every term.

2017 Action	Progress	Status
Closely monitor the take up of 30 hour entitlement places as that may have an impact on availability of 15 hour places for children only becoming eligible in the summer term.	The number of funded 2YOs remains relatively constant which is reassuring and in addition the sector have in Summer 18 accommodated 2,090 children via the extended entitlement offer. This is in addition to the 7,526 universal funded children which is slightly lower than last year.	Completed for 2017 but ongoing for 2018 as well as encouraging settings to share vacancy information which will assist parents in finding a funded place that meets their needs.

## Expansion to 30 hours of funded childcare

Despite one or two initial system glitches both internally and with our early years' portal provider Capita, and HMRC changing deadline dates every term, the 30 hours has quickly become another recognised strand of funding with providers and parents. We await the autumn 18 submission with interest to see how numbers compare to last year when the offer was introduced.

2017 Action	Progress	Status
The new portal provides us with better data handling capabilities and we intend to use this to analyse funded take up, especially of the 30 hours.	The portal has provided us with hugely improved data capabilities and we are also able to identify duplicate children much quicker thereby reducing the financial exposure of double funding to the local authority.	Completed
The improved reporting will also help us ensure that the single funding formula and pass through requirements are met.	Our increased direct control over data means that we can run reports and monitor figures at both the beginning and end of term and has been invaluable in allowing us to predict and then compare budgets over the year to ensure the market receive the stated pass through rates.	Completed
Portal information will be fed into our sufficiency analysis and reviewed in conjunction with ward data about tax credits and working families in attempt to identify trends, patterns and potential hot spots.	Unfortunately the ward boundaries changed earlier this year and as the Best Start commissioning was based on the old planning areas we have not yet updated the wards but this issue will be addressed in the near future.	Outstanding
Introduce a new online parental questionnaire.	Please see the information on page 25; going forward we will review the questions with view to reducing the multiple answers that tend to skew the data.	To be reviewed again in June 2019
Encourage settings to provide us with termly vacancy information which again will be very useful for parents.	Ongoing piece of work and we intend to re-launch the Family Space website in the autumn term to highlight the	To be reviewed in January 2019

	recent changes to the sector and encourage them to renew and update their information.	
The Provider Agreement detailing the contract between settings and local authority was updated to include 30 hours and therefore everyone is in the process of re-signing.	Although this was done the change of Data Protection regulations in May means we once again need to re-visit this document along with the Privacy Statement.	Ongoing
Review how effective partnership arrangements between providers are in terms of sharing observations about children and general transition.	This piece of work is still ongoing; the sufficiency team of three is currently only two and therefore some tasks have inevitably been deferred as we have maintained the day to day work of providing information and service.	Ongoing

## 2018 Actions

1. Continue with upgrades to Family Space; parents can now search for schools and Parent & Toddler groups but we need to ensure that all the information posted is current which will also include re-alignment with the new wards. As stated above we also wish to promote the site to the sector and re-introduce Childcare Business Croydon which is now incorporated within Family Space rather than stand alone.
2. In Spring 18 we lost our online 2YO portal and an interim manual process was introduced. However we have now identified an alternative provider which will mean parents will receive an instant response when they check eligibility but settings will once again have to log on to confirm that codes are indeed eligible as anyone using the portal receives a code.
3. As mentioned above the Provider Agreement needs to be updated and in addition we are looking to introduce some additional checks to ensure that providers are fully aware of how the various funding offers work. We also need to strengthen and clarify removal from the directory of providers following audit visits highlight significant areas of concern.
4. Improve the wording of some questions in the Parental questionnaire to assist with analysis as ideally we would want to improve our service in line with parental feedback.
5. Due to an internal restructuring of the SEND service we hope to have improved data on SEN children including numbers and any issues in accessing their funded entitlements.
6. Contact the out of school sector with a view to promoting sign up to Tax Free Childcare as we believe this is an area that could benefit both parents and providers.
7. Finalise the review of effective partnership arrangements between providers when funding is split over more than one setting.

## Parental Childcare questionnaire

This survey is to find out from parents and carers what their experiences and needs are in relation to childcare. The information will be used to inform our Childcare Sufficiency Assessment which helps us review and plan high quality childcare places across the borough.

We estimate this survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. The survey will close on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

All of your answers will remain confidential and you will not be identified in any way in the reporting and use of this survey.

### 1. How old are your children?

Age	Number of children	Does your child have a Special Educational Need or Disability?
Under 2 years		
Aged 2 years		
Aged 3 to 4 years		
Primary school age		
Secondary school age		

### 2. What type of childcare do you use for your children who are below school age? Please select all that apply.

Childminder	
Day nursery (open all year round)	
Pre-school (term time)	
Nursery class in school	
Standalone nursery school	
Nanny/Au pair	
Family/Friends	

### 3. What type of childcare do you use for your school age children? Please select all that apply.

Breakfast club	
After school club/activities	
Holiday club	
Childminder	
Nanny/Au pair	

Family/Friends	
None	

4. **If you use childcare, please say why.** Please select all that apply.

So that I can work	
So that I can look for work	
So that I can study/train	
So that I can fulfil other caring responsibilities	
So that I can go shopping/attend appointments/socialise	
For my child's benefit e.g. educational/social/enjoyment	
Other, please specify	

5. **If you do not use any childcare, please say why.** Please select all that apply.

Cannot find an available place	
Too expensive	
Children don't want to go	
I do not need childcare	
I am not happy with the quality available	
Sessions are not available at the times I want	
Transport difficulties getting to a provider	
Other, please specify	

6. **How easy is it to find suitable childcare for your child or children?**

	Early years childcare	School age childcare		
		Before school	After school	Holiday childcare
Very easy				
Quite easy				
Quite difficult				
Very difficult				

7. Please rate the following statements:

	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
My childcare provider is able to meet the needs of my child			
The staff provide a friendly/welcoming atmosphere			
There are always enough staff on duty			
I am happy with the range of activities and resources on offer			
There is enough space available in the setting			
The children have enough access to outdoor space			
The staff keep me well informed about my child's progress			

8. Before today, did you know that some families can get free childcare?

	Yes, I was aware of this	No, I was not aware of this
15 hours of free childcare per week for <b>some</b> 2 year olds		
15 hours of free childcare per week for all 3 and 4 year olds (universal funding)		
30 hours of free childcare per week for <b>some</b> 3 and 4 year olds (extended funding)		

If you would like to **find out more** about free childcare entitlements and eligibility, please visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

9. Do you use any of the following free childcare offers?

	Eligible & using	Eligible & not using	Unsure if eligible
2 year old funding			
Universal 3 and 4 year old funding			
Extended 3 and 4 year old funding			

10. If you are eligible for free childcare but are not using it, please say why not:

*Thank you for your time.*